

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6071

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SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR MISS LILLIAN AND PARTY

REF STATE 173004

1. WHILE RABAT IS TO BE REST STOP, IN VIEW OF MISS LILLIAN'S POSSIBLE MEETINGS WITH CERTAIN MOROCCANS, DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INCLUDING TWO SHORT PAPERS IN MISS LILLIAN'S BRIEFING BOOK. ONE IS ON THE PEACE CORPS AND THE OTHER ON AID'S ACTIVITIES AIMED AT WOMEN'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT. PROPOSED TEXTS OF THESE PAPERS FOLLOW, AS DO SUGGESTED ARRIVAL REMARKS.

2. PEACE CORPS IN MOROCCO

THE PEACE CORPS HAS BEEN IN MOROCCO SINCE 1963. SINCE THAT TIME, MORE THAN 1600 VOLUNTEERS HAVE SERVED IN THE COUNTRY, WORKING AS ENGLISH TEACHERS, FORESTRY AGENTS, SOCIAL WORKERS, LABORATORY TECHNICIANS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS, AND IN MANY OTHER AREAS.

CURRENTLY 105 VOLUNTEERS ARE ON BOARD. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SEVENTY-ONE TRAINEES WHO ARE EXPECTED TO BE SWORN IN AS VOLUNTEERS IN SEPTEMBER. THE MAJOR PROGRAM

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EMPHASIS IS ENGLISH TEACHING THOUGH VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO WORKING IN THE FIELDS OF RURAL SANITATION, ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED AND AGRICULTURE.

THE VOLUNTEERS ARE ASSIGNED TO MORE THAN FORTY VILLAGES, TOWNS AND CITIES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT

MOROCCO. THEY RECIEVE A MODEST LIVING ALLOWANCE (AVERAGE OF \$250) WHICH COVERS PAYMENT FOR RENT, FOOD AND OTHER BASIC NECESSITIES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT, IT PROVIDES THE EQUIVALENT OF \$90 PER MONTH FOR EACH VOLUNTEER SERVING WITH A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE PROGRAM IS WELL RECEIVED BY THE MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES, AND VOLUNTEER MORALE IS GENERALLY SOLID WITH AN AVERAGE ATTRITION RATE OF 10 PERCENT PER YEAR.

3. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

WOMEN HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN MOROCCO IN RECENT YEARS AND MALE DOMINANCE IS NOT AS ALL ENCOMPASSING AS IS OFTEN THOUGHT. IN ORDER TO HELP WOMEN APPROACH THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS MEN IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF MOROCCO HAS REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF AID. IN RESPONSE AID HAS DESIGNED TWO GRANT PROJECTS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOR.

ONE IS CALLED NONFORMAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AND IS TARGETED AT 45,000 ILLITERATE AND SEMI-LITERATE WOMEN. THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAS A CADRE OF 1,200 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS (PRMOTION FEMININE) MANAGING TRAINING PROGRAMS IN 344 WOMEN'S CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUTRY. THROUGH THE TECHNICAL SERVICES OF 7 AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND THROUGH PARTICIPANT TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 6 MOROCCAN INSTRUC-TORS, THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TEACHER TRAINING, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, AND JOB DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDING SMALL LOANS AND GRANTS AS SEED MONEY FOR SMALL ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES) TO UPGRADE THE ENTIRE PROMOTION FEMININE PROGRAM OVER A 3 1/2 YEAR PERIOD. THE GRANT WILL TOTAL \$4,335,000, OF WHICH \$2,291,000 WILL BE OBLIGATED THIS MONTH.

THE SECOND PROJECT IS CALLED INDUSTRIAL AND COMMER-CIAL JOB TRAINING FOR WOMEN. TWO PILOT CENTERS IN FES AND CASABLANCA WILL PROVIDE JOB-SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR 450 MOROCCAN WOMEN IN THE FIELDS OF ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONICS, INDUSTRIAL DRAFTING, CONSTRUCTION DRAFTING, ACCOUNTING, AND SECRETARIAL SKILLS. THE GRANT PROJECT WILL PROVIDE 6 AMERICAN TECHNICIANS EXPERT IN SKILLS TRAINING AND JOB DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATE TRAINING

EQUIPMENT, AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING IN THE U.S. FOR 6 MOROCCAN WOMEN TRAINERS. FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE PILOT EXPERIMENT, THIS ACTIVITY FOR WOMEN WILL BE REPLICATED THROUGHOUT THE 40 NATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS OF THE LABOR MINISTRY. AFTER THE REALIZATION OF THE REPLICATION PHASE SOME 1,000 MOROCCAN WOMEN WILL BE ENTERING THE LABOR MARKET EACH YEAR WITH THE REQUISITE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PREPARATORY TRAINING. THIS GRANT IS VALUED AT \$3,236,000, OF WHICH \$2,400,000 WILL BE OBLIGATED THIS MONTH.

4. SUGGESTED ARRIVAL REMARKS

I AM DELIGHTED WITH THE PROSPECT OF STOPPING,
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ALBEIT FAR TOO BRIEFLY, IN THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO. THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY WHICH, I AM TOLD, RESEMBLES SO MUCH MANY PARTS OF OUR OWN WESTERN UNITED STATES. I AM ESPECIALLY HAPPY TO BE HERE KNOWING THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ENJOYED OVER 200 YEARS OF UNBROKEN, FRIENDLY RELATIONS -- THE LONGEST RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE HAD WITH ANY COUNTRY. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT ON THIS TRIP I WILL NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE EXTENSIVE EFFORT AND PROGRESS MOROCCO IS MAKING TO MEET THE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN NEEDS OF ITS PROUD PEOPLE.

I AM LEAVING TOMORROW FOR THE GAMBIA, THE FIRST OF FOUR SAHEL NATIONS I WILL VISIT. I AM TRAVELING AT THE INVITATION OF EIGHT SAHEL NATIONS EXTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT, SIR DAWDA JAWARA, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE PURPOSE OF MY TRAVELS IS TO EXPRESS AMERICA'S DEEP INTEREST IN THE PROBLEMS OF WORLD HUNGER, OF THE DISPARITY BETWEEN RICH AND POOR, AND OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. DURING THE JOURNEY I HOPE TO GAIN AN APPRECIATION OF THE NEEDS AND DESIRES OF THE SAHEL NATIONS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO PRESIDENT CARTER GUIDING OUR COUNTRY'S DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THIS DROUGHT-RIDDEN AREA.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER AMERICA'S WARMEST GREETINGS TO HIS MAJESTY KING HASSAN II AND TO THE MOROCCAN PEOPLE, AND OUR CONFIDENCE THAT, AS WE ENTER THE THIRD CENTURY OF OUR LONG ASSOCIATION, THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION THAT HAVE BEEN THE HALLMARK OF THE PAST.
ANDERSON
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